



Florida House of Representatives

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SCHENCK BILL TO END DOUBLE-DIPPING PASSES HOUSE

TALLAHASSEE, FL- Legislation to end the process known as double-dipping won approval from the Florida House of Representatives today. House Bill (HB) 479, by Representative Robert Schenck (R-Spring Hill), closes a loophole that has allowed a growing number of elected officials and state employees to collect retirement benefits and a state salary at the same time.

"At a time when people are out of work and the economy is on a decline, I am happy we took this step to end the practice of double-dipping," said Representative Schenck. "This legislation will provide accountability to the taxpayers of Florida."

Currently, Florida law allows a state employee to retire and return to work in 30 days. HB 479 extends the period of time state employees must stay in retirement to six months or they will be required to forfeit their pension. Furthermore, if an employee returns to work for the state, their pension will be suspended for 12 months from the date of retirement. It also prohibits renewed enrollment, meaning state employees cannot accrue a new pension in addition to the original pension they already earned.

The Senate companion for HB 479 is Senate Bill 1182, by Senator Mike Fasano (R- New Port Richey).

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